

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 CPR-02 SY-10 SS-15 NSC-10

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 M-03 A-01 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-12 OPR-02 RSR-01 /114 W
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R 212001 Z JUN 73

FM AMCONSUL NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4337

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV BF

SUBJ: INDEPENDENCE ACTIVITIES

REF: (A) NASSAU 758; (B) NASSAU A-133

BEGIN SUMMARY. PROTOCOL CHIEF ERNEST STRACHAN, POLICE SUPER-INTENDENT AVERY FERGUSON AND OTHERS PROVIDED MORE INFORMATION ON INDEPENDENCE PREPARATIONS AT JUNE 20 CONSULAR LUNCHEON. QUESTIONS POSED SOMETIMES FAILED TO ELICIT SPECIFIC ANSWERS BUT HOPEFULLY ALERTED APPROPRIATE GOBI OFFICIALS TO SOME OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH MAY ARISE. END SUMMARY.

1. STRACHAN RETURNED JUNE 20 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS CONCERNING INDEPENDENCE ARRANGEMENTS, BRINGING WITH HIM SUP. FERGUSON, WHO IS COORDINATOR OF SECURITY MATTERS, AND OTHERS FROM THE INDEPENDENCE SECRETARIAT. THIS GROUP PROVIDED MORE INFORMATION THAN STRACHAN DID AT THE EARLIER MEETING, BUT LEFT SOME QUESTIONS UNANSWERED. GROUP SEEMED SURPRISED BY SOME OF THE ISSUES RAISED. MAIN TOPICS DISCUSSED FOLLOW.

2. THE EIGHTH AND NINTH FLOORS OF THE BRITANNIA BEACH AND PARADISE ISLAND HOTELS WILL BE SEALED OFF FOR USE BY OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS. FERGUSON DECLINED AT THIS POINT TO SPECIFY WHO WOULD BE STAYING WHERE (HE TOLD CONGEN OFFICER PRIVATELY THAT
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HE HAD COMPLETE FLOOR PLANS OF HOTELS AND DETAILED MAPS OF PARADISE ISLAND AND NEW PROVIDENCE AND WOULD BE GLAD TO SHARE THESE WITH U. S. ADVANCE SECURITY PARTY). ALL ROOMS WILL HAVE REFRIGERATORS AND MEALS WILL BE PROVIDED UPON DEMAND BY ROOM SERVICE. NO PROVISION HAS YET BEEN MADE FOR HOUSING SECURITY DETAILS ACCOMPANYING DELEGATIONS, BUT FERGUSON INDICATED THAT THIS COULD PROBABLY BE DONE IF HE IS NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY OF THE NUMBER AND REQUIREMENTS OF SUCH DETAILS. APPARENTLY DELEGATION HOUSING PLANS HAD BEEN MADE ON ASSUMPTION THAT BAHAMIAN LAND AND MARINE POLICE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE AROUND- THE- CLOCK PROTECTION AND THAT MORE THAN TOKEN SECURITY FORCES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD NOT ACCOMPANY DELEGATIONS.

3. EACH DELEGATION WILL BE PROVIDED ONE CAR AND DRIVER. PRIVATELY, STRACHAN WAS NOT SURE WHETHER THIS LIMITATION APPLIED TO U. S. DELEGATION. HE ASKED AGAIN THAT SMALL NATIONAL FLAGS FOR CARS BE SENT HERE BY JUNE 30 IF POSSIBLE (POST CAN PROVIDE). NO PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE BY GOBI FOR PROVIDING VEHICLES FOR ACCOMPANYING SECURITY DETAIL. FOR SECURITY REASONS ALL DELEGATIONS WILL MOVE TO AND FROM OFFICIAL EVENTS IN ONE MASSIVE CONVOY. CONVOYS WILL MOVE ALONG LIMITED ACCESS ROADS WITH ESCORT. FERGUSON SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO QUESTION OF AVAILABILITY OF RADIO FREQUENCIES, ETC. FOR COMMUNICATION AMONG MEMBERS OF VISITING SECURITY DETAILS.

4. COLOR- CODED TICKETS TO OFFICIAL EVENTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO DELEGATIONS. A SCHEDULE OF WHEN AND FROM WHAT POINT DELEGATIONS SHOULD LEAVE FOR SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS IS BEING WORKED OUT AND WILL BE COORDINATED WITH LOCAL GUIDES. STRACHAN INDICATED THAT METHOD OF DETERMINING PROTOCOL HIERARCHY IS AS YET UNDETERMINED, A SYSTEM OF ALPHABETICAL LISTING BY COUNTRY BEING FAVORED, ALTHOUGH HE PREFERRED SYSTEM BASED ON PERSONAL RANK OF DELEGATE. SEATING PLANS WILL BE DRAWN UP FOR OFFICIAL EVENTS, AND FERGUSON PROMISED TO WORK ON PROBLEM OF SEATING OR STATIONING OF VISITING SECURITY DETAILS.

5. PROVISION CAN BE MADE FOR ARRIVAL AND RECEPTION OF NON-COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT IF SUFFICIENT ADVANCE NOTICE IS GIVEN. DELEGATIONS WILL BE MET BY GOBI OFFICIALS AND LOCAL CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVE WHERE APPLICABLE. A VIP RECEPTION CENTER AT THE AIRPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE. LOCAL GUIDES WILL BE ON CALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT ALL TIMES AND WILL COORDINATE WITH CONSULAR OFFICIALS.

6. STRACHAN SAID SOME QUESTIONS OF DRESS ARE STILL UNSOLVED, WITH FORMAL VS. INFORMAL FACTIONS WITHIN THE GOBI. HE INDICATED THAT EITHER WHITE OR BLACK DINNER JACKETS WERE ACCEPTABLE WHERE " DINNER JACKET" SPECIFIED (GIVEN THE SEASON THERE MAY BE MORE OF THE FORMER THAN LATTER), AND THAT THE

QUESTION OF LADIES' HATS AND GLOVES WAS STILL A SUBJECT OF CONTENTION. ON STATE GIFTS, HE SUGGESTED THAT ONE SUCH GIFT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE BAHAMAS BE BROUGHT BY EACH DELEGATION FOR PRESENTATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER; HE SUGGESTED THAT THE GIFT BE QUOTE SOMETHING WE CAN USE UNQTE.

7. CONCERNING THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (REF B), STRACHAN POINTED OUT SOME MINOR CHANGES (OTHERS WILL NO DOUBT FOLLOW): ARRIVAL CEREMONIES FOR HRH WILL BEGIN AT 3:40 P. M. JULY 6 IN RAWSON SQUARE; JULY 8 ECUMENICAL SERVICE NOW SET FOR 9:30 A. M.; JULY 10 CLIFFORD PARK PRESENTATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL INSTRUMENTS NOW SET TO BEGIN AT 9:30 A. M.; AND PRIME MINISTER'S RECEPTION SAME DAY RESCHEDULED FOR 7:30 P. M.

8. STRACHAN READ OUT LIST OF COUNTRIES ACCEPTING OR REGRETTING INDEPENDENCE INVITATIONS. MOST COUNTRIES APPARENTLY WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL. U. K. DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY LORD BALNIEL. CUBA HAS ACCEPTED, BUT NOT YET NAMED REPRESENTATIVE.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NASSAU00816
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730626/aaaajkrx.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 NASSAU 758, 73 NASSAU A-133
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Jan-2002 by smithrj>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 980219
Subject: INDEPENDENCE ACTIVITIES
TAGS: PDEV, BF
To: ARA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005